Saskatchewan Health

Focus Sheet

Alcohol and Drug Centre Client Profile
Individuals in Recovery Services 1999/2000

All across Saskatchewan alcohol and drug programs funded by Saskatchewan Health provide treatment and counselling services to clients with alcohol and drug-related problems. Centres include inpatient and outpatient facilities, detox centres and long term residential centres. In 1999/2000, 9,758 clients used recovery services from one or more of these centres.

Highlights

- The total number of alcohol and drug centre clients increased by 5% between 1997/98 and 1999/2000.
- Most clients (89%) had problems with alcohol, either alone (49%), or in combination with other drugs (41%).
- Eleven percent had problems with drugs alone.
- Over two-thirds of clients (69%) were male.
- The largest proportion of clients (27%) were 30 to 39 years of age, followed by those 20 to 29 years of age (26%).
- The proportion of Aboriginal clients (54%) was extremely high compared to 9% of Aboriginal persons in the Saskatchewan population in 1996.
- Over a third (36%) of clients were not working compared to the Saskatchewan unemployment rate of 6%.
- Over two-thirds of clients (67%) had not completed Grade 12.
- Five percent of all female clients of childbearing age reported they were pregnant.
- Thirteen percent of female clients reported current injection drug use compared to 7% of male clients.

Alcohol and Drug Patterns

Number of Clients

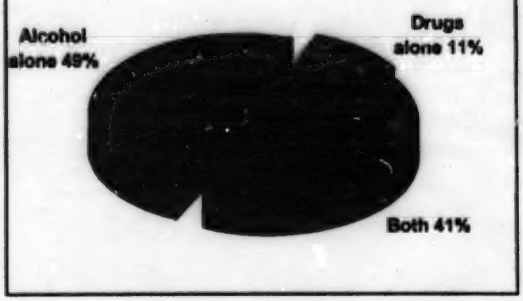
In 1999/2000, 9,758 clients used alcohol and drug centre services.

Forty-three percent of alcohol and drug centre clients had been previously admitted to alcohol and drug recovery programs during the preceding two years. Eighteen percent of all clients had been admitted two or more times in the preceding two years.

Type of Problem

Eighty-nine percent of all clients had problems with alcohol; either with alcohol alone (49%) or in combination with drugs (41%). Eleven percent of clients had problems with drugs alone (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Type of Problem



Problems varied according to sex, age and ancestry (Table 2). Male clients were more likely to have problems with alcohol alone (51%) than female clients (42%). Female clients were more likely than males to have problems with drugs alone (14% vs. 10%), and with a combination of alcohol and other drugs (44% vs. 39%).

Table 2: Type of Problem by Sex, Age and Ancestry

	Alcohol		Drugs		Both	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Sex						
male	3426	51%	635	10%	2593	39%
female	1239	42%	413	14%	1308	44%
Age						
under 15	41	14%	61	21%	183	64%
15-19	332	19%	320	18%	1110	63%
20-29	1101	44%	265	10%	1163	46%
30-39	1395	53%	228	9%	997	38%
40-49	1077	69%	138	9%	352	22%
50-59	464	80%	28	5%	85	15%
60+	253	93%	8	3%	11	4%
Ancestry						
Non-Aboriginal	2323	53%	509	12%	1580	36%
Aboriginal	2340	45%	538	10%	2318	45%

Problems with alcohol alone increased with age. In the 60 and over age group, 93% of clients had problems only with alcohol. Problems with drugs alone decreased with age. Problems with a combination of alcohol and other drugs were most common among younger clients. Sixty-three percent of clients 19 years of age or under had problems with both drugs and alcohol. Young clients (age 19 or under) are far more likely to have problems with drugs (82%) than adult clients (43%) are.

A larger proportion of Aboriginal (First Nations and Métis) (45%) than non-Aboriginal (36%) had problems with a combination of alcohol and drugs.

Injection Drug Use

A total of 841 clients (9%) reported current injection drug use. Seven percent of male clients (442) reported injection drug use, while 13% of female clients (399) reported injection drug use.

Drug Use

Clients were asked what drugs they had used in the past year, and if their drug use was creating problems. Some clients reported using more than one drug. Many clients reported using a drug, but stated that it was not causing a problem.

Clients who reported problems with drugs were most likely to use marijuana or hashish (32%), followed by nicotine (17%), crack/cocaine (10%), and other drugs (Table 3).

Table 3: Drugs Used by Clients Reported by Client as Causing Problems

	No.	%
Marijuana/Hashish	3056	32%
Nicotine	1672	17%
Crack/cocaine	963	10%
Prescription Narcotics	844	9%
Non-prescription Narcotics	841	9%
Stimulants	652	7%
Hallucinogens	603	6%
Tranquilizers	483	5%
Sedatives and Hypnotics	410	4%
Anti-depressants	193	2%
Lysol	186	2%
Solvents	113	1%
Steroids	9	0%

When the total amount of drug use among alcohol and drug centre clients is counted, we see that the majority of clients do use drugs other than alcohol (Table 4).

Table 4: Drugs Used by Clients: Problem and Non-Problem Use

	No.	%
Nicotine	7637	79%
Marijuana/Hashish	5088	53%
Prescription Narcotics	1737	18%
Crack/cocaine	1458	15%
Hallucinogens	1394	14%
Non-prescription Narcotics	1337	14%
Tranquilizers	1163	12%
Anti-depressants	1162	12%
Stimulants	1071	11%
Sedatives and Hypnotics	904	9%
Solvents	192	2%
Lysol	184	2%
Steroids	85	1%

Over three-quarters (79%) of clients used nicotine, and half (53%) used marijuana or hashish.

Characteristics

Sex

In 1999/2000 a total of 6,734 (69%) clients were male and 3,024 (31%) were female (Table 5, Figure 2).

Figure 2: Sex of Clients

Table 5: Sex, Age and Ancestry of Clients

	No.	%
All Clients	9758	100%
Sex		
male	6734	69%
female	3024	31%
Age		
under 15	289	3%
15-19	1776	18%
20-29	2558	26%
30-39	2662	27%
40-49	1605	16%
50-59	587	6%
60+	278	3%
Ancestry		
Non-Aboriginal	4501	46%
Aboriginal	5251	54%

The ratio of male to female clients varied with age, though males were in the majority in all age categories. Among those under 15 years of age there were 179 males and 110 females. In the 15-19 age group there were twice as many males as females, and in the 60 and over group, there were four times as many males (Table 6).

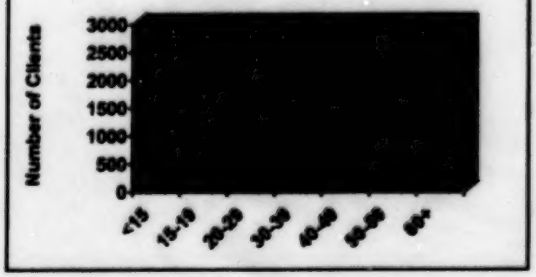
Table 6: Age by Sex

	Male		Female	
	No.	%	No.	%
under 15	179	3%	110	4%
15-19	1222	18%	554	18%
20-29	1671	25%	887	29%
30-39	1783	26%	879	29%
40-49	1201	18%	404	13%
50-59	455	7%	132	4%
60+	222	3%	56	2%

Age

The average age of clients was 32. The smallest numbers of clients were in the under 15 and in the 60+ age groups (3% in each group). The largest numbers of clients were in the 30 to 39 (27%) and 20 to 29 (26%) year age groups (Table 5, Figure 3).

Figure 3: Age of Clients



When compared to the Saskatchewan population, those between the ages of 15 and 49 were over-represented among alcohol and drug clients; the 15 and under and the 50 and over age groups were under-represented (Table 7).

Table 7: Comparison of Alcohol and Drug Centre Clients and Saskatchewan Population by Age

	Clients 1999/00	Sask. Pop. 1996
under 15	3%	23%
15-19	18%	8%
20-29	26%	13%
30-39	27%	15%
40-49	16%	14%
50-59	6%	9%
60+	3%	19%

Ancestry

A high proportion (54%) of the alcohol and drug centre clients in 1999/2000 was Aboriginal (Table 5). Only an estimated 9% of the 1996 Saskatchewan population 15 years and over was Aboriginal. (1996 is the most recent year for which this data is available.)

Table 8: Sex by Ancestry

	Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal	
	No.	%	No.	%
Male	3271	62%	3460	77%
Female	1980	38%	1041	23%

The proportion of men in recovery services was higher in the non-Aboriginal client population (77%) than in the Aboriginal client population (62%) (Table 8).

Table 9: Age by Ancestry

	Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal	
	No.	%	No.	%
Under 15	172	3%	115	3%
15-19	850	16%	925	21%
20-29	1648	31%	908	20%
30-39	1647	31%	1014	23%
40-49	708	13%	897	20%
50-59	177	3%	410	9%
60	48	1%	230	5%

The non-Aboriginal client population had a higher proportion of younger clients (19 and under) and older clients (40 and over) than the Aboriginal client population (Table 9).

Employment

In 1999/2000, 36% of alcohol and drug centre clients were unemployed. This compares to the 1999 unemployment rate of 6% in the Saskatchewan population 15 years and over.

Thirty-four percent of clients were in the paid work force. Only 25% of clients were employed full time. Thirty-nine percent of clients were distributed among part-time, seasonal, homemaker, student and retired (Table 10, Figure 4).

102-01393

Table 10: Employment Status	No.	%
Full-time	2418	25%
Part-time	851	9%
Not Working	3541	36%
Student	1638	17%
Retired	168	2%
Homemaker	680	7%
Seasonal	429	4%

A greater proportion of men (38%) were not working compared to women (33%), and a greater proportion of Aboriginal clients (44%) were not working compared to non-Aboriginal (28%).

Figure 4: Employment Status

Education

The majority of clients in 1999/2000 (67%) had less than a Grade 12 education. Eighteen percent had completed Grade 12, and an additional 15% had received some post-secondary education, either at a university or technical institute (Table 11). In the 1996 Saskatchewan population, 43% of those aged 15 or over had received some post-secondary education. (1996 is the most recent year available for this information.)

Female clients had slightly more education than male clients, with 16% having received some post-secondary education compared to 14% of men. Twenty-two percent of non-Aboriginal clients had received some post-secondary education compared to 9% of Aboriginal clients.

Table 11: Educational Status	No.	%
Less than grade 9	1944	20%
Grade 9 to 11	4592	47%
Grade 12	1749	18%
Some post-secondary	880	9%
complete post-secondary	564	6%

Occupation

The occupational group with the largest percentage of alcohol and drug centre clients in 1999/2000 was that of student (18%), followed by unskilled (18%), semi-skilled (15%), skilled (15%) and homemaker (8%). The remaining 26% were classified as professional, managerial, clerical, sales, farm, hotel/restaurant, small business owner, retired and other (Table 12).

Table 12: Occupation	No.	%
Student	1761	18%
Unskilled	1758	18%
Semi-skilled	1432	15%
Skilled Trade	1418	15%
Homemaker	811	8%
Professional	331	3%
Hotel/restaurant	272	3%
Farmer	211	2%
Small business owner	186	2%
Managerial	157	2%
Farm labourer	144	1%
Retired	144	1%
Clerical	111	1%
Sales Representative	91	1%
Sales Clerk	79	1%
Other	828	9%

Legal Status

1999/2000, nearly one half (49%) of alcohol and drug centre clients (4,830) were involved with the legal system: 2,141 had received a probation order, 793 were incarcerated, 1,114 had charges pending, 637 were being dealt with under the Young Offenders Act, 106 had pre-trial conditions, 109 had received a parole order, and 57 had received a family court order. (Some clients are included in more than one category.)

Fifty-five percent of male clients and 37% of female clients had some legal involvement; 58% of Aboriginal clients and 39% of non-Aboriginal clients had some legal involvement.

While 49% of clients were currently involved with the legal system, 59% of all clients had received a Criminal Code conviction for one or more offences in the previous five years.

In the two years prior to receiving treatment services, a total of 2,319 clients (24%) had received impaired driving convictions. A total of 650 clients (7%) had been convicted two or more times.

Pregnant Clients

Of the 2,724 female clients of childbearing age who attended recovery services in 1999/2000, a total of 123 or 5% stated they were pregnant. The majority of these pregnant clients were Aboriginal (89%). Twenty-one percent of pregnant clients were 19 years of age or younger (Table 13).

Table 13: Age of Pregnant clients

	No.	%
15-19	26	21%
20-29	75	61%
30-39	20	16%
40 and over	2	2%

Eighty percent of all pregnant clients had a problem with alcohol, either alone or in combination with drugs. Fifty percent of all pregnant clients had a problem with both alcohol and drugs. Twenty percent had a problem with drugs alone (Table 14).

Table 14: Problem of Pregnant Clients

	No.	%
Alcohol	38	31%
Drugs	24	20%
Alcohol & Drugs	61	50%

Eighty-five percent (85%) of pregnant clients had not completed high school. A quarter of pregnant clients (25%) had less than a grade 9 level of education.

Source of Referral

The largest sources of referral for clients were self or family (30%), the justice system (25%), and alcohol and drug centres (22%). Of the remainder, 8% were from government and non-governmental social agencies, 7% were from the health system (physicians, hospitals, mental health services), 4% from the educational system, 1% from employers, 1% from AA, and 2% from other sources (Table 15).

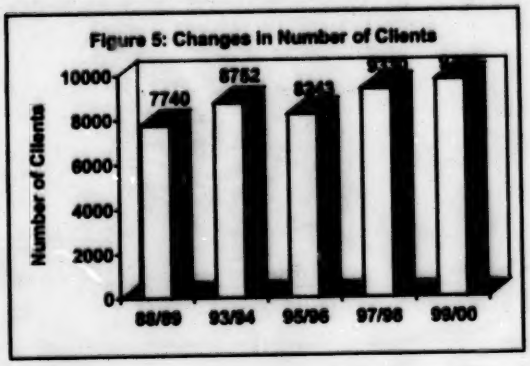
Table 15: Referral Source

	No.	%
Self/Family	2924	30%
Justice	2479	25%
Alc/Drug Treatment Centre	2140	22%
Social Agency	730	8%
Health	656	7%
Education	374	4%
Employment	119	1%
AA	92	1%
Other	212	2%

Trends

Number of Clients

The number of clients rose from 9,330 in 1997/98 to 9,758 in 1999/2000, an increase of 428 clients, or 5%. While the number of clients has fluctuated, there has been an overall increase in the number of clients over the last 10 years (Table 16, Figure 5).



Thirty-seven percent of the increase between 1995/96 and 1999/2000 is due to legislative changes that took effect on August 1, 1996. Prior to being eligible to apply for their driver's licence, all drivers convicted of impaired driving and other alcohol related driving offences must be screened for addictions. If screening results indicate no chemical dependence, clients are referred to Driving Without Impairment educational courses. If screening indicates dependence syndrome, as defined by the World Health Organization, clients are referred to further assessment and recovery services. Clients must satisfactorily complete the assigned recovery program before becoming eligible for license reinstatement.

Type of Problem

Since 1997/98 the number of clients who had problems with drugs alone has increased by 19%. The number of clients with drug problems alone has increased over the past 6 years.

Injection Drug Use

The number of clients reporting current injection drug use (IDU) increased by 3% (817 to 841) since 1997/98. This is a much smaller increase than the 43% in the previous two years. During this previous two years the number of female IDU clients increased by 8%, while the number of male clients decreased by 1%. The greatest percentage increase (31%) was reported in the forty and over age group. This increase in the 40 and over age group is likely due to recent increased availability of methadone treatment for opiate dependent clients.

Sex, Age and Ancestry

Table 16: 1997/98 – 1999/00 Comparison by Sex, Age, Ancestry and Problem

	1997/98		1999/00		1997/98 1999/00
	No.	% of total	No.	% of total	% change
All Clients	9330	100%	9758	100%	5%
Sex					
male	6394	69%	6734	69%	5%
female	2936	31%	3024	31%	3%
Age					
under 15	263	3%	289	3%	10%
15-19	1827	20%	1776	18%	-3%
20-29	2440	26%	2558	26%	5%
30-39	2552	27%	2662	27%	4%
40-49	1416	15%	1605	16%	13%
50-59	560	6%	587	6%	5%
60+	271	3%	278	3%	3%
Ancestry					
Non-Aboriginal	4419	47%	4501	46%	2%
Aboriginal	4908	53%	5251	54%	7%
Problem					
alcohol	4736	53%	4665	49%	-1%
drugs	884	10%	1048	11%	19%
alc/drugs	3352	37%	3711	41%	11%

The number of male clients increased by 5% and the number of female clients increased by 3% since 1997/98 (Table 16).

The age categories with the greatest increase in the number of clients was the 40-49 age group (13% increase), followed by the under 15 age group (10% increase). Eighty-two percent of young clients have problems with drugs, compared to 43% of adults. This is an increase from 1997/98, when 77% of young clients, and 38% of adults had problems with drugs.

The number of Aboriginal clients increased by 7% and the number of non-Aboriginal clients increased by 2%. Aboriginal clients are a majority of the client population.

Employment

The proportion of clients who were in the paid work force dropped from 36% in 1997/98 to 34% in 1999/2000. The unemployment rate among clients dropped from 34% to 36% during this period.

Education, Occupation

There was little change since 1997/98.

Source of Referral

The number of referrals from self or family dropped from 3,422 to 2,924. There was a large increase in the number of referrals from Alcohol and Drug treatment centres (1,250 to 2,140).

Legal Status

The percentage of clients involved in the legal system remained the same as in 1997/98. The percentage of male clients involved in the legal system remained the same (55%), but the percentage of female clients involved in the legal system increased from 34% to 37%.

Pregnant Clients

There was little change since 1997/98.

Notes: 1. Not included in this data are clients participating in alcohol and drug treatment centre collateral programs. Collateral programs are designed for family members and others who are affected by an individual's dependency but are not dependent themselves. In 1999/2000 there were 1,872 collateral clients.

2. Those SGI clients who were screened for chemical dependency, but who were not treated are excluded from the data.

3. Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding.

4 Totals in different tables may not add up to the same number due to unknown classification in some instances.

Caution: This information represents only those clients who received treatment through Saskatchewan Health funded alcohol and drug centres. Those who did not seek treatment or who sought assistance from physicians, hospitals, mental health centres or elsewhere are not included in the data.

Sources: Saskatchewan Health, *Alcohol and Drug Centre Client Profile: Individuals in Treatment 1997/98*; Saskatchewan Health, Community Care Branch's *Management Information System* (1999/2000 data); Statistics Canada, *The Nation: Complete Edition, Census 96*, Catalogue 93F0020XCB96003 and Catalogue 93F0025XDB96001; Bureau of Statistics, *Saskatchewan Statistics: Labour Force Statistics*, Sept. 4, 1998, Table 3.

For additional copies contact:

SPMC Distribution Centre

110 Henderson Drive

[illegible] S4P 3V7

Tel: [illegible]